We Are In This

TOGETHER
This is the traditional place in the TORCH where I get to write the re-cap of our many spring competitions.

We have lost numerous events through the years to weather and recently we almost had to cancel one due to van trouble. A few years ago we came very close to losing our State Bowling Opening Ceremony, banquet and dance due to the facility unexpectedly closing. These incidents were inconvenient but not that unexpected. A world-wide pandemic, however, falls into the “Didn’t see that one coming.” side of the ledger.

Athletes, coaches, parents and supporters we miss you! This time of uncertainty and change has definitely ignited an appreciation for every little thing we often take for granted... including our relationships with you.

So when we get to the other-side of this weirdness, when we get back to our normal activities and pace of life, when we complain about the work load or the stress of our jobs or the minutiae of our daily lives... give yourself that reminder, “Remember 2020?” That should just about get you through even the worst of days.

STATE BASKETBALL CANCELED: March 14 & 15, 2020 Pierre

We almost made it. Literally days before we were scheduled to travel to Pierre for our 37th State Basketball Tournament, the agonizing decision to cancel the tournament was made. This one was particularly disappointing for the athletes since the practice hours had been completed and the hard work was soon to be rewarded; not necessarily in medals but for sure in fun and comradery. Athletes, Pierre will be ready for you in 2021. Prepare yourselves for the best tournament ever!

A huge thank you to our Organizing Committee for the countless hours they put into this tournament:

Leslie Antonsen
Michelle Maupin-Barrett
Jody Carter-Clarambeau
Tarrah McLaughlin

Karla Miles
Chuck Quinn
Genevieve Row
Mary Stier
Jamie Siener

Our Sponsors ...May others be as kind to you as you have been to us.

Thank You!
**STATE SUMMER GAMES  CANCELED: May 21 - 23, 2020  Vermillion**

Vermillion and the campus of USD was to be the setting for our 52nd annual State Summer Games. As with millions of events around the world, these Games fell to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the cancelation of this event, not only did we lose all athletic competition, but also the LETR Torch Run, the pageantry of Opening Ceremony, two dances and Healthy Athlete clinics. Losing an event is always devastating but losing Summer Games just felt bigger than most.

We are pleased to report Vermillion has issued a raincheck for these games and in 2021 we will be back in Coyote country and rest assured, the Games will be better than ever!

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**Our Sponsors**  ...May others be as kind to you as you have been to us.

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AMS Building Systems  Clay Union Electric  Debra & Keith Thomas  Hartford Steak Co.  Herren-Schempp Building Supply  
Kirk Hogen  Lana & Arthur Rusch  Lowell Cook Construction  Masaba  Thompson Law

USD School Of Health Sciences  SD Physical Therapy Assoc  Vermillion Civic Council  Vermillion Optimist Club

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**Thank You!**
I think I can speak for everyone in the State Office when I say the last few days of March and the months of April and May in their entirety were spent in a surreal haze trying to come to grips with what was happening to our personal lives, our work lives and to the world as a whole. As with many, we were working from our homes for the first time and we were not prepared in the least. If I emailed such and such document to myself I should be able to work on it, then email it to a different account and sneak into the office late at night and print it off. It was frustrating. But as the days passed, we found better work-arounds, learned how to upgrade and use technology and became very, very friendly with Zoom.

Bigger than our worry for ourselves, however, was our collective concern for our athletes. We did a great deal of brainstorming these early days and weeks of the pandemic, figuring out our strategies for helping those in our Special Olympics family to stay physically healthy, emotionally healthy, active, fit and probably most importantly, to stay connected and engaged.

Almost immediately we launched a weekly newsletter called Healthy @ Home. Through this publication we were able to share strategies endorsed by SOI and the CDC for avoiding contracting COVID-19. We covered so much of this material we started referring to it as the Big 4: Stay home if sick, wear a face covering, practice physical distancing and washing your hands.

We were fortunate to get Jordan Nordquist, Board Certified Psychiatrist, on board as a weekly contributor, sharing emotional and mental health tips for navigating COVID-19. To cover the fitness angle, our volunteer extraordinaire Michael Fletcher has done an outstanding job engaging athletes through weekly facebook live workout sessions.

Without question our most important goal was to stay as personally connected and engaged with athletes as we could. Particularly at the front end of the pandemic, sports staff called, video chatted and emailed many athletes just to say hi, check-in and to offer any kind of emotional support needed. And then there is Zoom. For me, the one thing that summarizes COVID life the best. It brought people together, but often in a shouting match over loud TV’s and barking dogs. It did at least force some of us to practice a few social graces by shoving a cap over unwashed, uncombed and uncut hair. A sweatshirt on top and pajama bottoms on the bottom. The trappings of being stuck at home.

Now that we are over 4 months into this “thing”, we have all made some adjustments and sacrifices. Events have been canceled, but a plan is taking shape to offer athletes new sporting possibilities this fall. You won’t be able to high five or hug your friends and coaches, but at least you can see them face to face. And for those who cannot attend in-person events, well, we still a Zoom meeting every Wednesday at 10:30 am CST. If you haven’t taken part, I suggest you jump onboard. Feel free to wear a cap and your pajama bottoms.

After much consideration, it was determined an event resembling a typical State Equestrian competition just wasn’t possible within the parameters of our Return To Play guidelines.

In its place, our industrious program leaders have created a modified riding plan to allow athletes to compete in a COVID safe manner. These events will be held at the SPURS Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center in Aberdeen on September 8 and the Suncatcher Therapeutic Riding Academy in Rapid City on September 12.

Walk on!
**TID BITS**

**RETURN TO ACTIVITIES**

As citizens, communities, and nations around the world resume operations and activities in the time of COVID-19, Special Olympics has developed guidance for its Programs on returning to activities. This guidance is founded on the latest medical information available and guidance from organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) and nation-specific health agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in the U.S. All events and activities endorsed by SOSD are based on this guidance. SOSD will work closely with local Heads of Delegations to communicate event cancelations, modifications and training requirements. Together we will get to the other side.

**DID YOU KNOW**

In South Dakota, 68.7% of adult athletes attending a Health Promotion clinic were found to be obese. Unacceptable!

Come on athletes, friends and family! We can do better. It’s time to commit to Be Fit!

Did you know, on average, people with ID live 16 fewer years than their non-disabled counterparts? Well our Clinicians certainly do! This is the reason these folks travel across the state, lock their clinics for the day and give their students time off from class so they can provide our athletes FREE health screenings during our State Summer Games.

Do to the cancelation of our 2020 State Summer Games, our Healthy Athlete clinics were also canceled. We will be back, however and the good works conducted by our amazing clinicians will continue. Until then, they wish you good health and good luck!

Special Olympics Health is made possible by a generous gift from Tom Golisano and Golisano Foundation.

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**EXERCISE**

5 days a week

**EAT**

5 total fruits & vegetables per day

**DRINK**

5 water bottles per day

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**Inaugural Medfest Conducted**

On December 7, 2019, our first Medfest was hosted at the Unify Center on the SOSD campus in Sioux Falls. Thanks to a crew of amazing volunteers, 31 sports physicals were completed.

Thank you volunteers, and a special thank you to these folks:

Dr. Mark Harlow
Dr. Tara Robare
Marilyn Ruhlman, PA
Michelle Boadwine, RN
Sanford Health Pediatric Residents

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**Thank you Clinical Directors!**

Fit Feet
Lorri Riley

FUNfitness
Patti Berg-Poppe
Josh Nebelsick

Healthy Hearing
Paul Brueggeman
Marni Johnson-Martin

Health Promotion
Michelle Boadwine

Special Smiles
Aaron Studer

Strong Minds
Emilia Flint

Medfest
Dr. Mark Harlow

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**Special Olympics Health is made possible by a generous gift from Tom Golisano and Golisano Foundation.**
We had our second annual Cop on a Donut shop event at Flyboys on 10th St. and 57th in Sioux Falls, SD on July 17th. The objective of the event was to create an awareness for Special Olympics in a unique way while fundraising for our 2,750 athletes statewide.

Law Enforcement came out for the day to either hold signs, donation buckets, or stand on top of the roof with a megaphone promoting the event. It was a VERY hot day but a GREAT day with some GREAT Law Enforcement.

We are thankful for the partnership with Flyboy Donuts and can’t wait to do this event again in 2021!
On January 11th, local law enforcement officers took to the roof at three different Hy-Vee Sioux Falls locations (39th & Minnesota, 49th & Louise, and 26th & Marion) from 9 am to 4 pm. The event was used to raise both awareness and funding for Special Olympics South Dakota. The event brought in over $9,000.

**10 A Day Till It’s Okay**

This fun law enforcement led campaign went for a few months starting in the spring to keep our Special Olympics athletes involved and to continue to stay healthy during a time when events and competitions were being postponed.

Law enforcement officers who have participated in LETR and SOSD events in the past uploaded daily videos of them completing 10 of one type of exercise, whether going up the stairs 10 times or doing 10 pushups.

Not only did these officers motivate athletes to stay active, they also turned this event into a fundraiser. A huge thank you to those who participated and for the $1,000 secured in donations!

**Heroes Behind the Badges Blood Drive**

This annual event ran from Dec 26 through January 4, 2020 with the Sioux Falls Fire Rescue coming out on top with 495 blood donors versus 450 for the Sioux Falls Police Department.

With a combined total 945 donations, the real winners were the 2,835 recipients of this donated blood.

The Police Department presented SOSD with a consolation check for $300. Thank you to all donors and to the PD for this partnership.

Beginning in August, 2019, Law Enforcement Torch Run launched a different type of fundraiser at Ray’s Corner in Brookings, SD called Chase the Ace. The objective of the game is to purchase tickets and put down the number you believe the Ace of Spades is behind. If your tickets is drawn that week and the envelope number you chose is holding the Ace of Spades you win the jackpot!

Our first winner was Kevin Koerlin, taking home a whopping $2,858.54 on November 5th! We started right back up with round two of Chase the Ace but had to take a pause for a few months due to the pandemic.

We re-started in June and are currently in round two of Chase the Ace.

Anyone can purchase a ticket for $5 or $20 and need not be present to win.
Truck Convos are right around the corner but not without some changes.

COVID-19 has forced us to move the Rapid City Convoy to an online event. Participants can still participate in the Rapid City Convoy by registering online at www.sdconvoy.org and following the instructions.

Our Sioux Falls Convoy will still be a physical event at W.H. Lyon Fairgrounds on September 18 and 19.

For those that have participated in the Sioux Falls Convoy, but do not feel comfortable coming to the physical event, we invite you to register for the online Rapid City event.

The Plane Pull looked a bit different with the sanitation stations and temperature checks; however, it was still a fun and successful fundraiser!

A unique and exciting change for this year was the type of plane being pulled! Thanks to the Arizona Commemorative Air Force, our five teams were able to pull a B-17 Bomber plane and take a picture with it once done. It truly was a sight to see!

Thanks to our Law Enforcement, Maverick Air Center and the Arizona Commemorative Air Force we were able to raise over $10,000 for our Special Olympics athletes.
Butterburgers and Badges

This new event started at the end of February. “Change for Champions” buckets were placed at all of the Sioux Falls Culvers locations in order to collect spare change for our champions leading up to a Tip A Cop capstone event which was to be held in July.

Unfortunately, this event had to be postponed in March due to COVID-19. We are very appreciative for our partnership with Culver’s of Sioux Falls and we look forward to completing this event in the future!

Bingo Night for SOSD

This event was a new one for this year, and we are wondering why we haven’t done this sooner!

Remedy Brewery in Sioux Falls was generous enough to let us be on their patio on Friday, July 31 to host a Bingo night for Special Olympics. From 5:30 pm till 8:15 pm we were busy handing out over 20 prizes to several lucky bingo winners. There was also a raffle of a custom mini fridge that was given out that night. This will definitely be an event that we look forward to hopefully holding again in the future! This event brought in over $2,000 for Special Olympics South Dakota.

Ask An Officer

Our Law Enforcement Torch Run officers volunteered their time to talk on Facebook live with the public on different topics like their favorite Torch Run and State Summer Games memories.

We had several athletes take part in asking questions and being involved in the chats as they found this to be a fun way to get to know their favorite officers from the comfort of their home.
This year has definitely been an unprecedented and challenging year when it comes to events. With restrictions and unknowns, we moved our Torch Run for the first time to a Virtual Run. For a month starting May 15th, supporters from anywhere could for the first time take part in our Torch Run from the comfort of their own space. We were able to reach our mile goal of over 350 miles as well as surpass our goal and raise over $6,000.

Our top fundraiser for this event won a handmade quilt with past Torch Run shirts. Congrats again Dawn Ruhlman!

Thank you again to everyone who participated in this event this year and made it such a fun a successful event!

Pigskin tickets are available again this year for your delegation to sell and utilize as a fundraiser.

Pigskin Madness will have the same format as last year. Tickets can be purchased for $20 and are good for the entire 17-week season.

Each raffle ticket will have 4 different randomly assigned teams selected for each of the 17 weeks of the NFL regular season. Each week, your 4 team’s scores are added together to determine your weekly score. (For example, if in week 1 you had Rams, Packers, Vikings and Lions, we take the points they score and add them together for a total score.)

We pay the top 8 places as well as last place each week; paying out a total of $600 each week of the 17-week season. At the end of the season, one person will win a $500 grand prize for having the overall best ticket.

Tickets are available online at www.sosd.pigskinmadness.org. If you are interested in utilizing this fundraiser for your group, please contact Amy at acrawford@sosd.org.

Top R: The beautiful quilt won by Dawn
Top: Patrick & Toni Sabrowski putting in miles
R: Casey Tegethoff entering her bike ride miles
UNIFIED CHAMPION SCHOOLS

South Dakota now has 52 Unified Champion Schools; our goal is to get every school in South Dakota involved. The program is made up of 3 components – Unified Sports and Fitness, Youth Leadership, and whole School Engagement. This program changes the culture of your school to become inclusive, more accepting and breaks down barriers.

What is a Unified Champion School?

Unified Champion Schools brings youth with and without intellectual disabilities together through education and sports and related initiatives that provide them with knowledge, attitudes and skills necessary to create and sustain school communities that promote acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students.

The 3 Components of UCS:

1. Inclusive Sports & Fitness
Provides students opportunities to participate in sports activities alongside one another, which is the most conducive way for breaking down stereotypes: Unified Sports, unified physical education and intramurals, inclusive Young Athletes.

2. Leadership & Advocacy
Provides students opportunities to take on leadership roles in promoting UCS activities in the school and in the community: Partners Club, Youth Activation Committees, Youth Summits

3. Whole School Engagement
Provides opportunities for all students in the school to participate in UCS through school-wide activities: Spread The Word >> Inclusion campaign, Fans in the Stands, Pep Rallies and Polar Plunges.

Thank you to MJ Daulsin Roofing Company for your partnership with Special Olympics South Dakota! For every invoice they send out they will donate a portion of their earnings to us.

Join us on the following social media platforms

Special Olympics South Dakota
@SO South Dakota1
@specialolympicsssd

On August 8th, the fine folks at Great Life hosted an event called “Lift For A Cause”. This annual event has become a tradition in the powerlifting world.

Thank you to these amazing partners for recently hosting events on our behalf. We appreciate you!

In July, employees at most Burger Kings across the state sold SOSD icons to their patrons.
There is a very old saying... The best-laid plans of mice and men often go awry.

We were days away from our State Basketball Tournament when the activity embargo due to COVID-19 came down from Special Olympics, Inc. The following piece was already written for our Basketball program:

Recently, a longtime contributor to this project, Marge Engel from Mitchell, asked how long had we been sponsoring this event. She was sure she had been contributing for 10 years.

A quick check of the records revealed we have been doing this since 2011… an entire decade! And sure enough, Marge Engel’s name is on the original roster. Unfortunately, I did not track the number of individual pieces contributed until 2014. That year Marge donated 65. This year her contribution was 55. It’s pretty safe to say Marge has designed, crafted, loved and donated roughly 600 items to the athletes of South Dakota.

We thank you, Marge, as well as all of our crafters for your support over the past 10 years.

YOU ARE APPRECIATED!

Contributions to our 2020 campaign totaled 595 pieces of winter wear from 16* U.S. States and 10** South Dakota communities.

*CA, CT, FL, IA, IL, KY, MD, MI, NE, NY, OH, OR, SD, TN, WA, WI

**Brandon, Groton, Hurley, Marion, Mitchell, Sioux Falls, Vermillion, Watertown, Waubay and Yankton

So, as seems the norm these days, we are rolling with the punches! The materials we were going to distribute at our 2020 State Basketball Tournament will now be made available at our two State Bowling Tournaments to be held in November, 2020.

These gifts are always accepted with love and gratitude, but I have a sense everyone will be feeling extra blessed when we emerge from these challenging months.

We considered skipping our 2021 project... times are so tough for so many. But then a crafter reached out inquiring about the 2021 specs. With so much extra time on her hands, she was anxious for a distraction. After much thought, we will have a 2021 project. However, if contributions are down I will not be sad. Our athletes will not be sad. We will simply be grateful and appreciative.

Announcing our 2021 colors:

• We think you had fun with our “anything goes” color pallet this year. So, let’s do it again!
• All winter wearables will be loved (i.e. scarves, hats, mittens, head bands)
• Our goal is 400 pieces
• Due date is March 1, 2021

Thank you to our amazing crafters!

Since 2013, a dedicated and talented group of Athlete leaders has been meeting three times yearly to share ideas, concerns, make recommendations and provide feedback on events and competitions. Two members of the AIC also serve on the SOSD Board of Directors. Athletes, if you have an idea or concern, talk to a member of YOUR Athlete Input Council:

Wendy Addington - Spearfish Peaks
Kayla Bruna - Brookings
Jamie Davey - Rapid City Flame
Kyle Hegge - SESDAC Vermillion
Chris Hilla - Sioux Falls Fireworks
Mari Ibis - Sioux Falls United Wolfpack
Nick Mills - Sioux Falls Fireworks
Mike Murfield - Sioux Falls Fireworks
Keelee Rosales - Spearfish Peaks
Derek Smith - Sioux Falls Fireworks

Join us on the following social media platforms

Facebook: Special Olympics South Dakota
Twitter: @SO South Dakota
Instagram: @specialolympicssd
The Argus Leader Sports Awards recognizes and honors the top athletic accomplishments in South Dakota high school sports. Special Olympics South Dakota was honored for the invitation to participate in this wonderful event.

The usual in-person awards were canceled due to COVID-19. In its place was a custom online broadcast featuring top-tier athletes such as Drew Brees and Venus Williams making virtual presentations. This pre-recorded, high energy broadcasts debuted on Thursday, June 18, 2020.

The following are the nominations written for our two amazing winners:

**Name: Carly VanRoekel**  
**School: Ethan HS**  
**Age: 18**

The only thing bigger than Carly’s smile is her heart. She has competed for many years as an athlete for Parkston Area Special Olympics and the Ethan Rustlers. Carly is a quiet leader both on the court and off, always looking out for her friends. The pride in Carly’s eyes as she steps on the floor in her team uniform is second to none.

Carly is a senior at Ethan High School. Not only is she a great teammate, she always does her best in the classroom. Like every senior in the state of South Dakota the dream of her senior year has come to a halt. The opportunity to fulfill her and her teammates dream at the State High School Girls Basketball Championship also ended when the tournament was called after their first game. It continues to be a year of unknowns and opportunities for Carly and her friends.

Carly is an amazing teammate...whether she is playing or sitting the bench she is there for her team! More than once she has been recognized for her sportsmanship. Carly has participated both locally and at the state level in softball, track & field, volleyball, basketball and cheering on her teammates. She participates in many activities in addition to sports. Carly, her family and group of friends participate in the Polar Plunge to help raise money for Special Olympics and The Buddy Walk to promote acceptance and inclusion of people with Down syndrome.

Carly has State Championship trophies and medals, but when you ask Carly what the best part is she replies, "My friends!"

**Name: Cole Pedersen**  
**School: Hamlin High School**  
**Age: 16**

Cole has been participating in athletics since he was in elementary school. He has played, football, basketball, track, golf and baseball. Cole started participating in Special Olympics in 5th grade for NESC. Since then he has been active in unified bowling, unified bocce, unified basketball, unified soccer and track. During his Special Olympics participation he has received many medals and also the Sportsmanship award during state basketball. Cole was also a member of the Unified Basketball team that traveled to Seattle for the USA games and came home with the gold medal.

In addition to participating in Special Olympics, Cole has remained active in Hamlin High School athletics in different capacities. He is the ball boy for the football team and played basketball before transitioning into the student manager role. He is also a member of the varsity golf team and plays baseball during the summer. Cole is an all around athlete and always has a smile on his face no matter what his role is on the team. He would be well deserved to receive this award!

Congratulations, Carly and Cole. We are all very proud of you!
**SPREAD THE WORD >> INCLUSION**

**WHY THIS PROGRAM IMPORTANT**
The first Wednesday each March, Special Olympics, Inc hosts the Spread the Word >> Inclusion campaign. Since 2009, this movement has spread across the United States and around the globe, involving people of all ages - from elementary schools to college campuses and corporate offices. The 2020 campaign was the 10th year SOSD has participated.

We made progress toward inclusion through our former Spread The Word To End The Word initiative, but we have a long way to go in ending all types of discrimination for individuals with intellectual disabilities. This is a snapshot of some of the good works being done through our refreshed campaign...

Spread The Word >> Inclusion:

**In Schools:** Our youth leaders are spearheading inclusive activities in over 4,500 schools across the country through pledge events, student rallies, and videos that bring together students with and without ID to help create a more inclusive world for all — and this is a fraction of more than 3 million schools worldwide.

**In Youth:** Over 77% of U.S. high school students believe that their school should focus on social and emotional skills -- such as empathy for others. Our STW campaign has provided opportunities for young people of all abilities to build these skills through the promotion of Spread the Word. With Spread the Word >> Inclusion, students find their voice and teach them to be change agents in striving for inclusion.

**In Society:** Over 60% of people still believe that people with intellectual disabilities should be segregated In schools and In the workplace. With Spread the Word >> Inclusion, we can combat this intolerable attitude towards people with intellectual disabilities.

**In People with ID:** Hurtful language and actions of exclusion are unacceptable -- whether intended or not. Most people do not realize their words or and actions affect not only people with intellectual disabilities, but their friends and family.

**Bottom Line:** Language affects attitudes. Attitudes impact actions. Make your pledge to spread the act of inclusion.

**OUR CAMPAIGN**
We again had a record number of schools participate in this campaign.

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As usual, schools were provided with complimentary banners, posters, educational materials and event branded merch for every student. Messaged shirts were also available for individual purchase.

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**Kennedy Chooses to Include**

By Jalynn Joy-Schmitz

Students and staff at Kennedy celebrated Read Across America week with dress up days and guest readers. On Wednesday, March 4th, the dress up day, was centered around inclusion. Along with 140 other schools in South Dakota, Kennedy participated in Choose to Include day - a national movement sponsored by Special Olympics. School counselor Jennifer Cliff went to each classroom to discuss what inclusion is and how students can help to include others. Students then made a pledge to include and showed their commitment by signing a banner which will be hung up in the gymnasium.

This wasn’t Kennedy’s first year to be a part of this movement. Four years ago, Kennedy Elementary School signed up to be a Special Olympics Unified Champion School. A Unified Champion School is a commitment to promote social inclusion through intentionally planning school-wide activities. Jalynn Joy-Schmitz, school liaison, has helped facilitate organizing buddy programs, helping classroom teachers prepare all-inclusive activities and our all school “Choose to Include” day.
Congratulations to all of our award nominees and winners! We thank you for your outstanding dedication and contributions to Special Olympics South Dakota.

We would also like to thank those who took the time to submit an award nomination. We are grateful you recognized the importance of identifying the best of the best!

**Athlete Of The Year Award:** Presented to the Special Olympics athlete who has demonstrated the true spirit, courage, sharing, and joy of Special Olympics. The nominated athlete must have attended at least one competition during the year. Each nomination will be reviewed for individual effort, enthusiasm, sportsmanship, and achievement.

**Winner: Correna Templar (Rapid City Storm)**

Nominees: Garet Alickson (Spearfish Peaks), Makayla Nieman (Aberdeen Golden Eagles), Derek Smith (Sioux Falls Fireworks), Trevor Tridle (Spearfish Peaks & Sturgis-BHSSC)

**Don Baker Award:** The “Don Baker Award” is the highest honor presented by Special Olympics South Dakota. It is given in honor of Don Baker who was a volunteer and official starter for Special Olympics events for many years. The award is given annually to an individual, organization, business, or agency that has given outstanding support to Special Olympics South Dakota.

**Winner: Dawn Ruhlman (Brookings)**

Nominees: Sheri Duke (Yankton)

**Family Of The Year:** Presented to family members (including parents, brothers, sisters, etc.) who have demonstrated unique and outstanding support of Special Olympics athletes, have fostered the athlete’s physical and personal development through their participation in Special Olympics, and have demonstrated outstanding support for Special Olympics. Each nomination will be reviewed for the effort, enthusiasm, and support shown for the athlete.

**Winner: Laura Fossen Family (Spearfish)**

Nominees: Karla Miles Family (Pierre), Michele Zahn Family (Aberdeen)

**Outstanding Coach (Ron Stewart Award):** Presented to a Special Olympics Coach who best demonstrates a high degree of technical skill and personal commitment to their program. Criteria for selection include training, enthusiasm, attendance at competitions and the amount of effort put into coaching.

**Winner: Peggy Heermann (Aberdeen)**

Nominees: Mike Gleason (Sturgis), Amy Hildebrand (Sioux Falls)

**Volunteer Of The Year (Lyle Farrand Award):** Presented to the person who has exhibited the best example of voluntary action to improve the quality of Special Olympics. The nominee should have provided a full year of service to Special Olympics. Members of local programs, area committees and the State Board of Directors may be nominated. Length of service and the quality and amount of participation in SO will be used as selection criteria.

**Winner: Michael Fletcher (Sioux Falls)**

Nominees: Kristy Lintz (Rapid City), Maren VanLuvanee (Sioux Falls)

**Champion Award (DJ Mertens Award):** Presented to any business, organization, or media outlet which has made a major contribution to Special Olympics South Dakota.

**Winner: AGROPUR (Lake Norden)**

Nominees: Hills Septic Service (Rapid City), Hillyard (Sioux Falls)

**Unity Award:** Presented to a Unified Partner, individual or entity that promotes inclusion for people with an intellectual disability. The nominee should actively promote acceptance and understanding for all.

**Winner: Kaylee Namken (Vermillion)**

Nominees: Madeline Schuelke (Groton), Spearfish Middle School
## Gold $1,000 and above

- Aberdeen Convention & Visitors Bureau
- Avpro Global Holdings, LLC
- BankWest
- Basin Electric Power Cooperative
- Beacom, Miles & Lisa
- Benevity Community Impact Fund
- Black Hills Ammunition, Inc
- Black Hills Area Community Foundation
- Black Hills Federal Credit Union
- Bowden, Al
- Bridgewater-Emery School District
- Brookings Family Dentistry, LLC
- Brothers Pharmacy
- Bublitz Jr, Dan
- Cherry's Catering
- Cimarron Label
- Citibank
- City Of Pierre
- City of Vermillion
- Classic Corner LP
- Cole, Johnathan D
- CorTrust Bank
- Dakota Bodies, Inc
- Dakota Hospital Foundations, Inc
- Dakota Sports, Inc
- Dakotamart, Inc
- Dickmeyer Estate
- Earthbound
- Eggebraten, Kip & Joanne
- Elofon, Kari
- Farm Credit Services of America
- FedEx
- Fergen Enterprises, Inc
- First Bank and Trust
- First Dakota National Bank
- First PREMIER Bank
- Fischer Rounds
- Gas Stop Holiday Stations
- Grand Falls Casino Resort
- GTG Consultants, PC
- Harrerenga, Jim & Jane
- Hauff, Steve & Susan
- Health Products For You
- Hille, Andrew
- Hitt III, Henry W
- Hy-vee, Inc
- Independent Insurance Agents Rapid City
- JDS Industries, Inc
- Kansas City Toyota Dealers Association
- Knights of Columbus
- Kontz, Ken & Deb
- McHale, Dr. Michael & Jean
- McRick, Inc
- Menke, George & Vicki
- Midland National Life
- Minnwest Bank
- Mitchell Area Charitable Foundation
- Modern Woodmen of America
- Network for Good
- Nordquist, Gary & Anne
- Northwestern Energy - Sioux Falls
- Olson, Eric & Mary
- Pierre Area CVB
- Pierre School District 32-2
- Plains Commerce Bank
- Prairie Lakes Healthcare System
- Rapid City Regional Hospital
- Reichling, Gary & Susan
- Ricke, David G
- Rolofs, Lois A
- Sammons Corporation
- Sanford Health
- Scull Construction Service, Inc
- SD American Legion Auxiliary
- Sercl, George & Jean
- SESDAC Foundation, Inc
- South Dakota Community Foundation

## Silver $500 - $999

- Argopur, Inc
- Austin, John & Jill
- Avera Mckennan
- Beck Chevrolet-Cadillac, Inc
- Boen & Associates, Inc
- Brandon Area Soccer Association
- Central Bank (Meta Bank)
- Dakotaal Federal Credit Union
- Dalsin Inc. DBA M.J. Dalsin
- Daniel, David & Connie
- Edward Jones
- Erbert & Gerberts
- Farmers & Merchants Coop Oil Co.
- Gabrielson, Suzanne Lien
- GMG, LLC
- Gosmire, Terry L
- Hansen, Sarah
- Hatch, Chad & Korena
- Hillyard
- Howalt McDowell Insurance
- Jansma Associates, Inc
- Jason Aanenson, DDS, PC
- Kibbile Equipment
- Kiwanis Club of Madison
- Knapi, Michael
- Knodel, Kelly
- Konechne, Phillip
- Lake Region Electric
- Larry Olawsky Living Trust
- Lynn's, Inc
- Marmen Energy
- McCook Therapy & Wellness
- Midco Foundation
- MLGE Incorporated
- Montana Dakota Utilities Co
- Mustang Seeds, Inc
- Muth Electric, Inc
- Norcraft Companies
- Nordstrom's
- NPO Connect
- Olson, Chris & Theresa
- Ouellette Trucking, Inc
- Polaris Industries
- Pro-Tec Roofing, Inc
- RDO Equipment Co.
- Reznick, David G
- Sacred Hoops for Life, LLC
- Saloon # 10, Inc
- Schaefbauer, Keith & Ann
- SDN Communications
- Sioux Falls Morning Optimists
- Sioux Valley Energy
- Spartan Motors USA, Inc
- Spearfish Forest Products, Inc
- Stoltenberg Homes
- The Diamond Room
- TRI State Chapter
- TSP, Inc
- Ulvestad, Keith
- Whites Queen City
- Yankton County EMS

## Bronze $250 - $499

- ATH Corporation
- Banwart, Ron
- Barger Electric, LLC
- BDL Enterprises, Inc
- Brookings Auto Mall
- Brookings Health System
- CHS Farmers Alliance/United Energy
- Clark, Kari
- CMC Excavation, Inc
- Cordell, Brad
- Cornellus, Phil
- Custom Touch Homes, LLC
- Dairy Queen - Madison
- Dakota Machine Tool
- Dolan, David H
- Dyrig, John
- East River Electric
- East River Federal Credit Union
- Elite Electric, Inc
- Ethan Co-Op Lumber Association
- Evans, Gail & Richard
- Fedeler's Glass & Repair
- Frisbee Plumbing & Heating
- Frontstream
- G.A. Murdock, Inc
- Gales Inc. & Fin Services, Inc
- Global Polymer Industries, Inc
- Graham Tire CO of Pierre, LLC
- Great Western Bank - Madison
- Gusso, Jason & Bethany
- Habeck Trucking, Inc
- Hamlin Student Fund
- Hansen, Judd
- Heinz, Tom & Jane M
- Heller, Jeffrey G & Michelle R
- Hillestad, Jan
- Hofer Physical Therapy, LLC
- Hovan, Bob & Don
- Hotel Service & Tire, LLC
- Hotchkiss, Dale
- Houser, Cindy & Thomas
- Hyland Machining, Inc
- Hyland, Norma J
- Infotech Solutions, LLC
- Jansen, Steve R
- Johnson Brothers Exc., Inc
- Journey Group Companies
- Kerher, Jessica
- KJ Johnson Enterprises, Inc
- Knights of Columbus - St Katherine Drexel
- Knights of Columbus - Little Flower
- Korzeniewski, Jacob
- Kouri & Associates, Inc
- Leonard, Jerry & Mira
- Leonard, Kevin
- Liberty Drywall, Inc
- Madison Community Hospital
- Mahlander's Appliance & Lighting
- Maxwell & Bower Agency, Inc
- MDS Manufacturing co, Inc
- Michael Johnson Construction, LLC
- Mido Sports Network
- Midwest Railcar Repair, Inc
- Miller, Douglas & Danielle
- Mike's Corner

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**SPECIAL OLYMPICS SOUTH DAKOTA**

June, 2020

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Y our generosity is humbling, appreciated, and we thank you!
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Thank You!

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Bronze $250 - $499 cont

January - June, 2020

Miller, Curtis
Mollison, James B
Morin, Joseph & Patty
Nama, Inc
Nemken, Kaylee
Nelson & Nelson, CPA
Nichols, Brooke
Northeast Educational Services Cooperative
Oetken, Eric
Omnitech
Owen, Nicholas A & Kari Ann
Palmietter, Steven & Teresa
Parkston Grain & Feed
Paulson, Lynn M
Reier, Mark E
Reinicke Construction, Inc
Rosebud Cabinetry & Lodging Furniture
SADD
Sandy's Bar
Schlueter, Mark & Janet
Schult Electric
Schut, Pam
SD State Pen Emp Org
Snyder, Wes
Sodak's Marine, LLC
Sola Salon Studios
Sorensen, William And Jodi
Soukup Construction, Inc.,
Spencer Quarries, Inc
Sunshine Food
Taylor Mehlaff Kicking, LLC
The Security State Bank
Tracy's Paint & Body, Inc
TriTel Communications, Inc
United Methodist Church
Voneschen Lawn & Landscape

In Honor of Tyler Covell
Black Hills Counseling, LLC

In Honor of Sara Boesder
Bauld, Doug & Janet

In Honor of Patti Giebink
Giebink, Joan

In Honor of Kelsey Hanisch
Hanisch, Leo & Glenda

In Honor of Caden Holzer
Charities Aid Foundation of America

In Honor of Erik Lien
Blackburn, Curtis & Marilyn
Brandon Lumber Co, Inc
Derouchey, James & Dorothy M
Elite Electric, Inc
Erickson, Arny
First National Bank

In Honor of Joe Miller
Grand Falls Casino Resort

In Honor of Richard Molseed
Avera Health

In Honor of Noah Pierce
NPO Connect

In Honor of Scott
Price, Pamella J & Terrance J

In Honor of Cindi Smith
Wells Fargo Foundation

In Memory of Phillip Konechne
Phillip Konechne

In Memory of Marian J Nelson
Bell, Rodney & Sherry
Larson, Sheila M
Nelson Dakota Farm, LLC
Triple D Acres, LLC

In Memory of Dort Papendick
Margaret A Cargill Foundation

In Memory of Rosalie Dahlquist
Crowser, Marlyn

In Memory of Peggy Gubrud
Lynott, Patricia L

In Memory of Lowell J Hyland
Amundson, Mavis
Blake, Jeremy M
Decker, Sharon
Hyland, Duane J
Hyland, Norma J
Hyland, Mr & Mrs Daniel R
Hyland, Robert & Stacey

In Memory of Larry Zimmer
Bowers, Donald J & Joanne K
Casey, Barbara A
Clark, Jim & Deann
Davis, Cynthia A
Griffith, Thomas J & Patricia M
Weese, Joel R & Anelle

In Memory of Stacey Small
Ellefson, Margaret A

In Honor of Larry Zimmer
Bowers, Donald J & Joanne K
Casey, Barbara A
Clark, Jim & Deann
Davis, Cynthia A
Griffith, Thomas J & Patricia M
Weese, Joel R & Anelle